



# United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20240

## *Proclamation*

### *Child Abuse Prevention Month and Alcohol Awareness Month*

*April 1999*

***WHEREAS**, there is no resource that is more vital to the continued existence and integrity of Indian Tribes than our children; and*

***WHEREAS**, the incidence of child abuse and neglect in Indian Country has risen by 18% in the past six years and American Indians have a rate of arrest for alcohol violations more than double the national rate. Arrests of American Indians under age 18 for alcohol-related violations are also twice the national average; and*

***WHEREAS**, the Bureau of Indian Affairs has an ongoing responsibility to improve and enrich the lives of children by reducing the incidence of child abuse and neglect and alcohol and substance abuse in Indian Country; and*

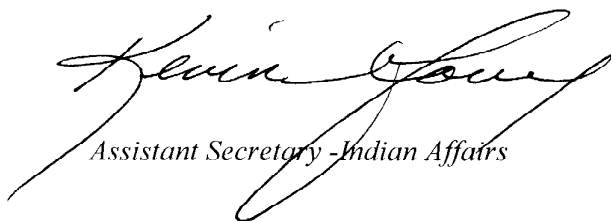
***WHEREAS**, the Bureau of Indian Affairs recognizes that primary and secondary prevention programs are most effective and best organized at the local community levels; and*

***WHEREAS**, the Bureau of Indian Affairs must join with Tribes to develop strategies that protect our children from the devastating and life-long effect of child abuse and substance abuse in our communities;*

***NOW THEREFORE**, I, Kevin Gover, Assistant Secretary -Indian Affairs, do hereby proclaim the month of April 1999 as Child Abuse Prevention Month and Alcohol Awareness Month.*

*In doing so, I also dedicate the month of April to the many tribal and community programs that, with limited resources, continue to provide prevention and intervention services to abused and neglected children and those who struggle to overcome alcohol and substance abuse. And, I renew our commitment to work with Tribes to end child abuse and substance abuse in our communities.*

Kevin Gover



Assistant Secretary -Indian Affairs